

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6998

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide education and training to emergency response providers and community leaders relating to the mental health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide education and training to emergency response providers and community leaders relating to the mental health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Mental
5 Health Training for First Responders and Community
6 Leaders Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF**
2 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS ON MEN-**
3 **TAL HEALTH ISSUES OF VETERANS OF OPER-**
4 **ATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION EN-**
5 **DURING FREEDOM.**

6 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall carry out a three-year pilot program under
8 which the Secretary shall provide education and training
9 about covered mental health conditions to emergency re-
10 sponse providers and community leaders.

11 (b) LOCATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary
12 shall carry out the pilot program under this section in Vet-
13 erans Integrated Service Networks selected by the Sec-
14 retary.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

16 (1) The term “covered mental health condi-
17 tions” means post-traumatic stress disorder, depres-
18 sion, traumatic brain injury, and other mental
19 health conditions identified by the Secretary as
20 being related to deployment in support of Operation
21 Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

22 (2) The term “emergency response providers”
23 means emergency public safety, fire, law enforce-
24 ment, emergency response, and emergency medical
25 providers.

1 (3) The term “community leaders” means
2 judges, elected officials, officers of local veterans or-
3 ganizations, and other individuals identified by the
4 Secretary.

5 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
6 after the last day of the pilot program under subsection
7 (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
8 the pilot program. Such report shall include—

9 (1) the locations in which the Secretary carries
10 out the pilot program;

11 (2) the number of individuals who participate in
12 the program;

13 (3) the types of activities carried out under the
14 program;

15 (4) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
16 program; and

17 (5) the recommendations of the Secretary with
18 respect to the extension or expansion of the pro-
19 gram.

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